

Dear FCC, I think the Amateur Service has changed in many ways over the last 100 years. The invention of such technologies as RTTY, using a Terminal Node Controller, and other high-speed low bandwidth data has changed the face of modern Amateur Radio. Echo-Link has joined repeaters and individuals alike over the internet, and QSL cards are now being emailed instead of sent in the postal mail. All of these changes have shaped the hobby.

Morse code is one of these topics that has many people watching the internet to see the outcome. Internationally Morse Code has been deleted from the requirements for a radio license. There are many countries that have already dropped the requirement and a few more that have voiced intent. This is all because the hobby is changing with the times.

Do I think that Morse Code should be eliminated? Absolutely not. I do however think that we no longer need it to achieve a particular license class in the amateur service. We have other means and modes that more data can be sent in a shorter time in the same amount of bandwidth. The original need for CW was to transmit data when bandwidth was small or the conditions were not so great. That is no longer the case.

Therefore, I am calling on the Federal Communication Commission to repeal the requirement of CW for the license classes above technician. It is an old science that is no longer needed to have a license. Please follow the lead of other nations and repeal this requirement.

I think that CW is an art that should stay around though. We need to preserve the sub-bands that are allocated for CW, and we need to still teach the art to others. It is a neat mode to operate. I want to protect CW from total elimination, I just want to remove it as a license requirement.

Kevin Ready, KC8PJS

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